

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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TAGS: PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: ECHEVERRIA AND THE UN

1. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 5, 1975, PRES ECHEVERRIA WAS ASKED ABOUT POSSIBILITIES FOR HIS BEING CHOSEN UN SECGEN. ECHEVERRIA RESPONDED THAT HE DIDN'T SEE MUCH PROBABILITY OF THAT HAPPENING, NOR DID HE SEE MUCH MOVEMENT OCCURRING AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES IN SUPPORT OF HIS CANDIDACY.

2. ECHEVERRIA ADDED THAT HE WAS INDEED HEADED FOR THE UN, BUT THAT THIS WOULD BE TO SPEAK AS HEAD OF MEXICAN DELEGATION TO UNGA AT YEAR'S END. LATTER SESSION, HE SAID, WOULD TAKE UP ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO MEXICO, SUCH AS PANAMA CANAL, IN WHICH HE HOPED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTION IN PANAMA'S FAVOR AND HELP IMPRESS ITS CAUSE ON WORLD'S CONSCIENCE.

3. PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO SET OFF ON 40-DAY TRIP TO AFRICA, ASIA, AND NEAR EAST, WHICH WOULD ENABLE HIM THEN TO ADDRESS (BEFORE UNGA) "THE DIFFICULT AND UNJUST PLIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THESE (I.E. PALESTINE AND PANAMA) ARE THE TWO GREAT

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CAUSES OF LIBERTY AT THE PRESENT MOMENT," HE CONCLUDED.

4. COMMENT: ECHEVERRIA'S DOUBTS ABOUT THE PROGRESS
OF HIS CAMPAIGN FOR UN SECGEN STAND IN CONTRAST
TO AN UPBEAT STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS ON THE
PRECEDING DAY BY FONSEC RABASA, WHO CLAIMED THAT "A
LARGE NUMBER" OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAD INDICATED
SUPPORT FOR ECHEVERRIA'S CANDIDACY.
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